Renegotiation for Scorpene Submarine Project

2394. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to renegotiate the long pending French Scorpene submarine project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Negotiations with prospective vendors are conducted until the Government is assured of the best possible terms and conditions that the nation can get.

Project 75 for Submarines

2395. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inordinate delay in the clearance of its crucial plan "Project 75" confirming acquisition and building of submarines was not only causing operational lacuna but also curbing special skill and capabilities for building submarines;

. (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken decision to start retiring submarines from 2012; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for the indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. Project 75 is a part of this plan.

Presently the available submarines are maintained and operated to meet the operational requirements of the Navy. The existing submarines are provided Mid-Life Update (MLU) to extend their service life.

Although, at present, M/s. Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), has no orders to build new submarines, the submarine building capability of the yard is being maintained through the Mid Life Update of submarines that the yard is tasked to perform from time to time.